I claim:

1.   A network collaboration system, comprising:

one or more input documents;

one or more network connections that receive contributions to the input documents from one or more clients, wherein the contributions combined with the respective input document creates one or more output documents; and

a collaboration process that permits one or more of the clients to switch between a synchronous and an asynchronous collaboration session.

2.   The system of claim 1, wherein the switching occurs when one of the clients in an asynchronous collaboration session invites one or more new clients to a synchronous collaboration session.

3.   The system of claim 1, wherein the switching occurs when two or more of the clients coordinate to start a synchronous collaboration.

4.   The system of claim 1, wherein one or more of the clients resume a suspended synchronous collaboration.

5.   The system of claim 1, wherein the switching occurs when all of said clients leave the session.

6.   The system of claim 1, wherein the switching occurs when all of said clients switch the session to an asynchronous session

7.   The system of claim 1, wherein the collaboration process provides a synchronous collaboration component as an incremental addition to an asynchronous collaboration component.

8.   The system of claim 7, where the incremental addition intercepts a contribution event from a client and broadcasts the intercepted contribution events to other clients.

9.   The system of claim 1, wherein the collaboration process implements the contributions to the input documents based on a time of arrival.

10.   The system of claim 1, wherein the collaboration process implements the contributions to the input documents based on a global time stamp.

11.   The system of claim 1, wherein the collaboration process provides a consistent view of said one or more documents to each of said clients.

12.   The system of claim 1, wherein the collaboration process broadcasts the contributions to the input documents to each of said clients.

13.   The system of claim 1, where the contributions comprise at least one of a comment, a change request and an incremental modification of a document.

14.   A method comprising the steps of:
            receiving contributions to one or more input documents from one or more clients over a network;
            combining the contributions with the respective input documents to create one or more output documents; and
            switching one or more of the clients between a synchronous and an asynchronous collaboration session to make said contributions to one or more input documents.

15.   The method of claim 14, wherein the switching step occurs when one of the clients in an asynchronous collaboration session invites one or more new clients to a synchronous collaboration session.

16.   The method of claim 14, wherein the switching step occurs when two or more of the clients coordinate to start a synchronous collaboration.

17.   The method of claim 14, wherein one or more of the clients resume a suspended synchronous collaboration.

18.   The method of claim 14, wherein the switching step occurs when all of said clients leave the session.

19.   The method of claim 14, wherein the switching step occurs when all of said clients switch the session to an asynchronous session

20.   The method of claim 14, wherein the switching step selectively introduces a synchronous collaboration component as an incremental addition to an asynchronous collaboration component.

21.   The method of claim 20, where the incremental addition intercepts a contribution event from a client and broadcasts the intercepted contribution events to other clients.

22.   The method of claim 21, wherein the contribution events are processed based on a time of arrival.

23.   The method of claim 21, wherein the contribution events are processed based on a global time stamp.

24.   The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of presenting a consistent view of said one or more documents to each of said clients.

25.   The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of broadcasting the contributions to the input documents to each of said clients.

26.   A document management system, comprising:

one or more input documents;

one or more network connections that receive contributions to the input documents from a plurality of clients, each of said contributions have an associated time;

a serializer for ordering said contributions based on said associated time; and

a broadcaster for broadcasting said contributions to each of said plurality of clients.

27.   The document management system of claim 26, wherein said associated time is an arrival time.

28.   The document management system of claim 26, wherein said associated time is a global time stamp.

29.   The document management system of claim 26, wherein said contributions are stored in an addendum database.

30.   The document management system of claim 26, wherein each client has a local copy of at least said one of said documents.

31.   The document management system of claim 26, wherein a contribution made by a given client is not processed until a broadcast version of the contribution is received.

32.   The document management system of claim 26, wherein a contribution made by a given client is processed immediately and a broadcast version of the contribution is discarded.

33.   The document management system of claim 26, wherein each client implements each contribution that is received from said broadcaster.

34.   A method, comprising the steps of:
                receiving contributions to one or more documents from a plurality of
clients, each of said contributions have an associated time;
                ordering said contributions based on said associated time; and

5   broadcasting said contributions to each of said plurality of clients.

35.   The method of claim 34, wherein said associated time is an arrival time.

36.   The method of claim 34, wherein said associated time is a global time

10   stamp.

37.   The method of claim 34, further comprising the step of storing said
contributions in an addendum database.

15   38.   The method of claim 34, wherein each client has a local copy of at least
said one of said documents.

39.   The method of claim 34, wherein a contribution made by a given client is
not processed until a broadcast version of the contribution is received.

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40.   The method of claim 34, wherein a contribution made by a given client is
processed immediately and a broadcast version of the contribution is discarded.

41.   The method of claim 34, wherein each client implements each contribution

25   that is received from said broadcaster.